

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor device ~~according to claim 1~~ having a protection circuit, further comprising:

An NPN type bipolar transistor having a collector and an emitter connected between an external connection terminal and a reference terminal of a semiconductor device to be protected;

a PMOS transistor having a drain terminal and a source terminal connected between a base and the collector of the NPN bipolar transistor and configured to supply a base current to the base of the NPN type bipolar transistor;

a control circuit configured to supply a control signal to a gate of the PMOS transistor in response to a voltage emerging on the external connection terminal; and

an NMOS transistor having drain and source terminals connected between the base and the emitter of the NPN type bipolar transistor and a gate terminal supplied with a control signal of the control circuit.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor device ~~according to claim 4~~ having a protection circuit, comprising:

an NPN type bipolar transistor having a collector and an emitter connected between a data input/output terminal of a semiconductor device to be protected and a reference terminal;

a control circuit configured to output a control signal in response to a voltage emerging on a data input/output terminal; and

a logical circuit having an output terminal connected to a base of the NPN type bipolar transistor and configured to perform a logical operation based on a voltage on at least one of power supply terminals of the semiconductor device to be protected and the control signal of the control circuit and to supply a base current from the output terminal to the base of the NPN type bipolar transistor only when the semiconductor device to be protected is in a non-operation state in which no operation voltage is supplied to the power supply terminals to enable the protection circuit,

wherein said logical circuit includes an NOR circuit configured to receive a voltage on said power supply terminal and the control signal of said control circuit.

Claim 6-16 (Canceled).